



**SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE**  
CAMBRIDGE, CB2 3HU

**Sarah Bonnett**  
*Bursar*

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Scarlett Bambridge  
To be sent by email

4 February 2021

Dear Scarlett

I am replying to your Freedom of Information request to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, which was received on 26 January 2021.

For clarity, below is your original request.

*Please could you tell me the amount of people that applied to Sidney Sussex College for the M100 Law course for 2021 entry?*

The information requested, insofar as it is held (noting that the current undergraduate applications cycle is ongoing), is exempt under section 36(2)(c) of the Act because its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs, in this case the integrity of the College's applications and admissions process which form a fundamental part of its mission as an educational institution. (As the information requested is statistical in nature, the opinion of the qualified person did not need to be sought for this application of section 36). The current undergraduate cycle is ongoing and applications are still being submitted and assessed. The College considers that the disclosure of detailed statistics about applications made within the current cycle would be likely to prejudice the notion of a fair and confidential admissions process whereby each applicant has the same information at their disposal and partial granular data is not disclosed to specific members of the public while the process is ongoing. As this is a qualified exemption, the College has considered whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The College considers that, while some people might have an understandable private interest in these statistics, there is no genuine public interest in them when set against the extensive statistical information available about previous admissions cycles published at <https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/apply/> statistics, coupled with the prevailing public interest in maintaining a level playing field in terms of the information available to all applicants.

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I hope that this answers your questions. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, you can request a review by our FOI Review Officer, Mr Nick Allen [nga23@sid.cam.ac.uk](mailto:nga23@sid.cam.ac.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Bonnett", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Ms Sarah Bonnett  
Bursar